

If You Think Last Year Was Good at ULM, Just Wait Until Next Year!



One year ago, the people of Louisiana extended to me a sacred trust as president of The University of Louisiana at Monroe. Now is a good time to take stock of the past and look forward to the future. In my first address to this institution's faculty and staff, we laid out some of my objectives for the coming

years. One was to meet you; the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the people of northeast Louisiana. Others were to restore confidence in ULM, build an administrative and executive team, increase our recruiting efforts, evaluate how our funds were utilized, clean up the campus, balance the budget, begin an academic planning process, renew the strategic planning process, restructure our development efforts, increase the number of minority faculty and administrators, take our case for additional funding to Baton Rouge, and seek increased community support for intercollegiate athletics.

We have addressed all of the objectives set out in that original speech. We have addressed, in some manner, all of the recommendations contained in the Fisher Report within our first year. *The News-Star* has been very good about reporting our progress, such as the unqualified opinion on our financial audit, the lifting of the accreditation warning by SACS, the unprecedented numbers of students that attended both the fall and the spring Browse on the Bayou recruiting events, and the highly successful Reclaiming our Campus clean up effort. This has been a very good year for ULM and the students we serve. Morale on campus is high, students are happy and engaged, and interest of prospective students is greater than it has been in years. However, to me the most important accomplishment of the year has been that the ULM community, internally and externally, has again begun to work together. Many of you, the dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends in the community have stepped up when asked, regardless of the task.

Two of our most critical objectives that we began during the year are our Academic Program Review and our Strategic Planning Process, and our faculty has set the standard for accountability and assessment of academic programs through the Academic Program Review. What we have seen as the reviews progressed is a new learning experience for our faculty, students, and our community. The series of public forums has developed into a process to identify academic program weaknesses and strengths, a process that enables us to look at ourselves very honestly and openly. It gives all of us the opportunity to gather the information and to develop faculty- and data-driven plans for the future. The Academic Program Review Committee is establishing the baseline foundation for our strategic

planning process. What all of us have learned is what many of us already knew: the academic quality of this institution is as strong as any institution in the state, and the faculty is equally strong.

ULM is embarking on an ambitious university-wide strategic planning process. We will be seeking both campus and community involvement during the next six months to look deeply into the environment surrounding our institution. Our

strategic planning steering committee will be developing a series of task forces to study the factors

(continued on page 9)

"Morale on campus is high, students are happy and engaged, and interest of prospective students is greater than it has been in years."

What's Inside

Director's Corner.....	2
Fundraising Challenge.....	2
Faculty Updates.....	3
ACCE Visit.....	3
Alumni Spotlight.....	4
Industry Advisory Council.....	5
Students' News.....	6
Alumni Crawfish Boils.....	10
Alumni Updates.....	11

And More!

SPRING 2003

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the 2002-2003 academic year comes to an end, I am proud to inform you that the future of the School of Construction has never been brighter. President Cofer and his cabinet are hard at work fine tuning the University as a whole. They have created an arena of opportunity for those programs willing to put forth the extra effort necessary to succeed. We are taking advantage of that opportunity.

Last year, our upper administration committed to adding two new faculty members this Fall. I am pleased to announce the addition of Mr. Bill Normand and Mr. Greg Smith ('90 graduate) to our faculty. They will be introduced in depth in our next *Groundbreaker*. We are very excited about these two new additions, but are saddened by the retirement of Mr. Herb McCaskill. We thank Herb for his twenty-one years of service and wish him the best in his retirement.

An accreditation team from the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) was on campus in March to evaluate our program.

We look forward to hearing positive results at the ACCE meeting in Portland, OR, this summer.

We are meeting with our alumni across the state and in the surrounding states. This past year we have teamed with the ULM Alumni Association and have met with alumni in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Dallas, Jackson, Little Rock, and Shreveport. When you hear of an alumni event in your area, make that extra effort to attend and represent your School of Construction.

Thanks to the Louisiana Contractor's Educational Trust Fund and the QUOIN chapter of AGC, we are

installing a new state-of-the-art, multi-media computer lab. Our Industry Advisory Council continues to be a dynamic force. The initial drive to increase the Pott's Fund was successful. We have created a new recruiting video and are actively recruiting new students. Your School of Construction is hard at work!

Dr. Keith A. Parker,
Director, ULM School of Construction

*"The Future
of the
School of
Construction
has never
been
brighter"*

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

Dr. Parker renewed his personal contribution to follow up on last spring's "Director's Challenge" by making his second \$1,000 personal donation to the School of Construction Foundation. IAC members are strongly encouraged to pledge their minimum contribution of \$500 per year for two years. Long-term commitments from Alumni and friends of the School are also needed.

Dr. Parker makes his second \$1,000 personal contribution at the IAC meeting.



Donations should be made to:
"ULM Foundation -- Potts Fund"

and mailed to

Dr. Parker, ULM School of Construction, 700 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71209-0540

FACULTY UPDATES

McCaskill Retires



On April 28, 2003, the University celebrated the retirement and contribution of Herbert L. McCaskill and other retirees from the College of Arts and Sciences at a ceremony in the Anna Gray Noe Alumni Center.

Herbert “Herb” McCaskill joined the faculty at the School of Construction as the first “Constructor-in-Residence” in 1982 and

served as Director of the School from 1987 to 1994. Prior to coming to ULM McCaskill was President and owner of H. L. McCaskill Construction Company for twenty years engaging in commercial and industrial construction. McCaskill received his Bachelor of Science in Building Construction from the University of Florida and his Master of Science in Construction Management from Texas A & M University. He is a fellow and past National President of the American Institute of Constructors, and past President of the American Council for Construction Education. Mr. McCaskill is a Certified Professional Constructor. Mr. McCaskill has brought national and international recognition to ULM by serving as president of several national construction organizations. As a teacher he has loved the students under his direction and enjoyed the challenge of teaching them. As he completed his twentieth year of teaching at ULM, McCaskill still had his

enthusiasm for teaching and made his students his top priority.

“Herb McCaskill served as the advisor for *Sigma Lambda Chi* for many years,” Dr. Parker, current Director of the School said. “He is known among the students as a rigorous educator who expects strong academic achievement.”

“As the faculty advisor for the Construction Honors Society of *Sigma Lambda Chi*, Mr. McCaskill gave up his free time to help honor students maintain a sense of motivation that will continue throughout their college careers,” said Lisa Holland, 2002 Outstanding Student and Highest GPA awardee. “He attended all functions of the Construction Guild, serving as a constant icon for leadership and support. He was constantly researching new advancements in the ever-changing construction industry to keep his students updated with the latest information. His attitude of openness allowed students to approach him at any time for his help or advice in any situation. Mr. McCaskill maintained not only an academic, but also a personal relationship with every student in the construction program. His devotion to the program is not contained within the hours of his instruction, it affects every moment of his daily life.”

“I can personally say that I will always remember the valuable lessons Mr. McCaskill taught me within the construction curriculum,” said Nick Nicholson, 2003 Outstanding Student and past student Guild president. “More importantly, I will always remember the valuable lessons he taught me about life.”

ACCE VISIT

The School of Construction received the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) visiting team on March 8 through 11, 2003. The team was made up of six people: Dr. Jack Landers (Chair), Head of the Construction Management Technology, Department of Manufacturing and Construction of Central Missouri State University; Mr. David Dando (Member), President of MCDR, Inc., Memphis, TN; Dr. Scott Seltveit (Member), Construction Management Department of Technology of Minnesota State University at Moorhead; Mr. Don McCollister (Member-in-training), President of Harmony Corporation, Baton Rouge, LA; Mr. John Gaver (Member-in-training), Vice President of Wehr Constructors, Inc., Brandon, FL; and Mr. Don Beach (Industry Observer), President of Steel Fabricators of Monroe, LA.

During their accreditation visit the team toured the School of Construction facilities, the University Library, and the Career Center. They examined the current curriculum and students’ work, and met with University President Cofer,

Provost Richters, Dean Fandal and representatives of the Alumni Association, Career Services, Computing Center, and other departments.

The final ACCE accreditation report will be presented during the ACCE July 2003 meeting and the accreditation vote will follow.



Left to right: Dr. Seltveit, Mr. Gaver, Dr. Landers, Dr. Parker, Mr. Dando, Dr. Fandal, Mr. McCollister, and Mr. Beach.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Henry "Chip" Carlson III, '83
Vice President of Operations,
Henry Carlson Co.



Chip Carlson

"The mix of classes that were taught as part of the curriculum at ULM has helped me manage three companies and deal with all the issues that come with the construction business"

"The mix of classes that were taught as part of the curriculum at ULM (then NLU) has helped me manage three companies and deal with all the issues that come with the construction business," Carlson declares. "In the construction business you need to deal with many different issues during the course of a day so the education from ULM has helped a lot. My current job title is Vice President of Operations. My Dad who just turned 78 in May is still President and is in the office every day. His experience is invaluable to us younger guys."

As an owner in the Henry Carlson Company, Carlson wears many hats, and deals with company issues, human relations, insurance, bonding, banking, marketing and equipment purchasing, along with project specific issues, estimating, project management and scheduling. "I still really enjoy managing projects but the administration time has taken over, but I still try and manage one job a year," Carlson said. "Starting a project and working it to completion is a very rewarding experience."

Born and raised in Sioux Falls, SD, Carlson has spent all of his time in South Dakota except for the 3 1/2 years in Louisiana. Carlson graduated from High School in 1976 and then attended the University of South Dakota. Carlson recalls difficult moments that he successfully overcame as a young adult. "After two years of hunting and drinking, my Dad thought it was time for me to stop wasting my time, so he put me to work as a laborer/carpenter on a construction project. Drinking became more and more of a problem so in January of 1980 I admitted myself to an alcohol treatment center in Minnesota. The six weeks of treatment has given me 23 years of sobriety."

In May of 1980 Carlson tore the ACL in his right knee playing softball. Since he was going to be laid up for up to 8 months, construction work was out of the question for at least a year. "One night after dinner my Dad mentioned to me that he had run into Thurman Potts at the AGC Convention in March and Thurman had encouraged him to send me down to ULM to visit the School of Construction," Carlson recalls. "With my knee a mess, I decided to check it out. When I visited ULM in late July, Thurman put on the sales pitch, and four weeks later I was a student at ULM." Carlson graduated from the School of Construction in the Spring of 1983.

While at ULM Carlson was actively involved in the AGC Student Chapter, and was President of the chapter for one or two years. "I remember going to the AGC

Convention in Houston, TX, and in Atlanta, GA. The chapter raised money by holding a 'Back to School Party' and we paid the expenses for most of the student members to attend the National Convention."

When asked what the major steps in his career were, Carlson listed quitting drinking as number one, and attending ULM as number two. "I was amazed how much easier college was when I attended class and did a little studying," Carlson said. "Probably the most important steps in my career were the steps my father had me do. He got me involved in the business at a very early age and continued to have me work at various jobs in the company."

The Henry Carlson Company was started in 1919 by Chip Carlson's grandfather Henry Carlson, and has been in business as a General Contractor for 84 years. "The Henry Carlson Company typically has around 100 employees," Carlson said. "I am a third generation owner of the Henry Carlson Company. Our biggest asset is our employees. We have a great mix in the field and in the office of younger and older long term employees. We have a lady that has worked in the office for 63 years along with many employees with over 40, 30 and 20 years experience. We also have a wholly owned subsidiary that does asphalt paving, Asphalt Surfacing Company. They employ approximately 30 people from spring through fall."

In the early 1980's Henry Carlson Co. purchased another construction company, Kyburz Construction, in Aberdeen, SD. "This company had fallen on some hard times and we purchased their assets from the bank in 1984 and renamed it Kyburz-Carlson Construction Company," Carlson recalls. "This was an old family business with many long time employees, the purchase and operation of this company has been seamless with all employees staying on. This company has thrived the past 18 years and employs around 45 employees. Between the three companies we do \$55-\$75 million in volume per year."

Recent projects that the company has been involved in include a Super Wal-Mart in Mitchell, SD; the conversion of both a Sam's and a Wal-Mart to super centers; and a 17 Million dollar Orthopedic Center at Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. Henry Carlson Co. built a 180,000 sf distribution center and a post office for the United States Postal Service in Sioux Falls, SD; and also built three buildings for Citibank with over 360,000 sf along with a day care. Some of the company's past clients include, Gateway 2000, 3M, Menards, and Hutchinson Technology. Henry Carlson Co. has built

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

(Alumni Spotlight Continued)

most of the schools in Sioux Falls along with many others in South Dakota.

“We have hired quite a few construction management graduates from our area,” Carlson said. “And there are a couple of things that help us pick a good employee during the interview process. The first thing we like to know is if they have worked on construction projects to complement their education. The students with the field experience are much more desirable for us. We require that all our project managers spend at least a year on a job site as an on-site project manager before they work in the office. I would say that in 10 years all of our superintendents will be Construction Management graduates. I would advise all students to think about becoming a superintendent as well as a project manager.”

Chip Carlson is currently a member of the national AGC and the South Dakota AGC Chapter. He is a past Board member and past President of the Minnehaha Country Club, and served 10 years on the Sioux Falls Board of Appeals, an entity which deals with building code issues in Sioux Falls, SD.

Carlson is also a current member of the School of Construction Industry Advisory Council and serves on its Finance, and Strategic Planning Committees. "I am very honored to be on the ULM IAC, I look very much to our twice a year meetings. ULM prepared me extremely well for my career in construction and I feel it is important to give back to the School of Construction both financially and by giving advice to the School of Construction to help prepare the students for their future in construction. The council has members from the early years and includes recent graduates. We meet and give suggestions for the school along with support. This support has been in the way of money contributed along with meetings with the ULM Administration. Our IAC is very strong with members from 9 different states and all walks of the construction industry. With the challenges that Universities are facing, I am quite confident that the IAC has helped solidify the School of Construction at ULM.

I would hope all graduates would continue to financially support the School of Construction at ULM."

The Spring meeting of the ULM School of Construction Industry Advisory Council took place Friday, April 25, 2003, at the School of Construction. Seventeen members were in attendance. The members of the Advisory Council met with Dr. Carlos Fandal, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and with the School of Construction faculty and students.

The IAC voted to accept the following new members:
Mitch Stentiford – America’s Home Place, Jackson, MS
David Dando – MCDR, Memphis, TN

Dr. Carlos Fandal, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, confirmed the hiring of two new faculty members. Dean Fandal reported that the University is starting its own strategic planning activities. Dean Fandal stressed the importance of getting opinion and input from the IAC. The University is currently focusing on recruitment and retention and is organizing and attending events throughout the state.

Since the merger, the College of Arts and Sciences is the largest college and is very demanding because of the diversity of the programs. The Dean is working on developing unity and making sure resources are allocated appropriately. The Dean reported that the University is committed to the School of Construction, and the President of the University is very impressed by the members of the IAC because of their emotional and financial support as well as their loyalty and constructive criticism.

The Finance Committee will help in resource development by requesting funds from the CETF, by contacting other IAC members and alumni to establish a new professorship, create long-term funding mechanisms, increase the Potts Fund and meet the short-term equipment needs. Members are Ken Holland (chair), Chip Carlson, David Dorsch, Laurence Favalora, John Kent, Keith Parker, and John Hunter.

The Strategic Planning Committee will update the current strategic plan and will work on a plan for the next five years. The strategic plan has been a very important document for the School and needs to be adjusted since the School’s situation went from survival to growth. Members are Don Beach, Chip Carlson, Laurence Favalora, Don Greenland, Steven Hallman, and Keith Parker.

The Recruitment Committee will decide on strategies to increase enrollment and name-recognition, and create a marketing plan to target appropriate groups in a cost-effective manner. Members are Don Beach, David Dumas, Keith Parker, Steve Terrill, and Scott Thompson.

The Internship Committee will investigate the possibility of developing a system of internship/summer jobs for the students. Members are Jerry Fields, Jud Jacobs, Paul O’Donnell and Karl Meeks.

Groundbreaker
Newsletter
Spring 2003



*Larry Favalora
IAC Chairman*

**The Advisory
Council
currently has
35 members
and meets twice
a year at the
ULM School of
Construction.**

**If you wish to
become a member
of the Industry
Advisory Council,
contact Dr. Keith
Parker at
(318) 342-1860
or e-mail
kparker@ulm.edu**

STUDENTS' NEWS

Sigma Lambda Chi

The Xi Chapter of *Sigma Lambda Chi* held its awards ceremony on March 28, 2003. Over 25 people attended the *SLX* cookout. Congratulations to Charles May, who received the "Highest GPA Award," and Nick Nicholson, who received the "Outstanding Graduate Award." The *Sigma Lambda Chi* inductees for the Spring 2003 semester are Andrew Clack and Charles Cruse.



Charles May receives the "Highest GPA Award"



Nick Nicholson receives the "Outstanding Graduate Award"



*Charles Cruse,
Spring '03 Inductee*



*Andrew Clack,
Spring '03 Inductee*

Student Guild Officers

The following students have been elected as Guild Officers for Fall 2003:

James Reneau	President
Andrew Brown	Vice-President
Glen Moore	Secretary
Shane Williams	AGC
Alan Till	NAHB
Daniel Peterson	ABC

"Aloha" AGC Convention

This year twelve ULM Construction students attended the National AGC Convention held in Honolulu, Hawaii, March 18 through 22. Melton Bell, Andrew Brown, Boyd Chandler, Leslie Dyess, James Hewitt, Brandon Neal, Nick Nicholson, Charles Paris, James Reneau, Marc Rockett, Amy Simons, and Alan Till were able to attend the AGC meetings, visit the exhibits, and work the School of Construction booth, thanks in part to the money raised at the October Guild banquet.

Recruitment Video

We have updated our recruitment video!

The video lasts 10 minutes and showcases general information about the construction industry and testimonials from current students and alumni.

The video is available as a CD-ROM or as a VHS tape, and will be distributed to the IAC members and sent to high school guidance counselors. If you wish to receive a copy of the recruitment video to help us increase enrollment, please contact Dr. Keith Parker at kparker@ulm.edu

Guild Crawfish Boil

The annual School of Construction Crawfish boil organized by the Student Guild took place on Saturday, April 12, 2003. Numerous alumni came out to meet the students and fellow alumni, play horseshoes and volleyball, enjoy beverages and suck on those mudbugs! We look forward to seeing you next year! Check out the pictures on our web site at www.ulm.edu/construction

Thurman Potts/AGC Golf Tournament *(Reprinted with permission of the Louisiana AGC)*

The LAGC Monroe District held their 9th annual spring golf tournament on Monday, April 28 at the Calvert Crossing Golf Club in Calhoun. Proceeds from this annual event are used to fund the Thurman Potts-AGC Scholarship, which is the premier scholarship at the ULM School of Construction. Due to the success of the tournament, it was decided last year to also create four small scholarships that are funded by the tournament. Two of these scholarships are awarded to Construction Management students at ULM and the other two go to the Construction Engineering Technology students at Louisiana Tech. This year's event was another successful fundraiser.

The overall champs in the Championship Flight was the team of Jody Moss, Gaylord Burrows, Matt Owens (Owens Contracting) and Rudy Aikens (Aikens Fabricating). Second place went to Foy Gadberry (Lazenby & Assoc), Daniel Peterson, Heath Davis and Nick Alexander (ULM School of Construction). Third place honors went to Paul Nelson, Steve Gatlin, Randy Rhymes (Hertz Equipment Rental) and David Leslie (Denmon Engineering).

The First Flight winners were as follows: First place – Charles Poole (James Construction Group), Kevin Crosby (Lazenby & Assoc), Barry Lacy and Marshal Hill (LADOTD). Second place – Todd Gentry, Chris Mangrum, Patrick Stracner (all with Breck Construction) and George Bryant (TXI). Third place – Shawn Fleming, Mark Redding, Johnny Pace and Grant Blakeney (Northeast Telecom).

Finally in the Second Flight, those going home with

trophies included First place winners Glen Fabian, Jerald Marshall, Todd McBroom and Danny Peeler (Acme Brick). Second place went to Glenn Golson, Gary Perkins, James Henry, and Norm Carter (Golson Architecture), while the Third place title went to Doug Norman, Chip Norman (North LA Roofing Supply), Craig Gregory, and Larry Courson (Roof Masters).

Longest drive honors went to J.P. Fitzmorris (Lincoln Builders) with a drive of 294+ yards. Closest to the Hole winners were Rudy Aikens, Kevin McNabb and Sonny Day. Thank you to all participants and especially to the sponsors for making the 2003 Potts/AGC Golf Tournament a huge success. Special thanks to this year's golf committee for their hard work, Kenny Bates (Labor Finders), Charles Poole (James Construction Group), ULM Construction Guild, Labor Finders for supplying all golfers with ditty bags and TXI for once again preparing all the golfers' lunches.



Kelly Barkley, Brian Welch, Nick Nicholson, and Dr. David Manry participated in the event.

Student Competition



*Ryan Markle
"Outstanding Presenter Award"*

Ryan Markle, a New Orleans senior, received the Outstanding Presenter Award at the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region V Student Competitions. The competition hosted by QUOIN took place February 8 through 11 in Dallas, Texas. Markle participated in the Heavy Highway competition and received a prize of \$100 as part of the award.

Three teams of six students from the School of Construction participated in the event and competed against John Brown University, Louisiana Tech University, Oklahoma State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the University of Oklahoma. Dr. David Manry coached the Heavy Highway team made up of Robbie Bentz, Charles Mardis, Ryan Markle, Brian McLawchlin, Jason Poland, and Josh Tarver. Mr. Bobby Ensminger coached the Construction Management team made up of Andrew Clack, Charles May, Nick Nicholson, James Thomas, and Brian Welch. Dr. Keith Parker coached the Design Build team made up of Chris Butler, Leslie Dyess, Erik Looney, Matthew Nabholz, Sam Newman, and Daniel Peterson.

Check Out
Our Students'
Resumes
at
[www.ulm.edu/
construction](http://www.ulm.edu/construction)

Come join us
under the
School of
Construction
tent at any
home game
for food,
drinks, and
fellowship!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MAY 2003 GRADUATING SENIORS

Jamie B. Adams	Charles M. Mardis	Jenina L. Perkins
Melton S. Bell	Christopher M. Mardis	Lowell J. Poland
Cody B. Bordelon	Charles D. May	Jeromy S. Pruitt
Chris J. Butler	Donnie W. Mixon	Marcus T. Rockett
Graydon B. Chandler	Zebulon W. Mixon	Amy M. Simon
Heath Davis	Nikolaj Morris	Jack R. Skaggs
Leslie E. Dyess	Brandon L. Neal	Joshua Tarver
Alexander K. Hayward	Raymond W. Nicholson	William B. Watson
James S. Hewitt	Charles F. Paris	Brian J. Welch
Christopher E. Looney	Jerry B. Jr. Peoples	

Weatherbie Named ULM Head Football Coach

Charlie Weatherbie, who took over struggling football programs at Utah State and the Naval Academy and guided both to bowl victories, was introduced May 7 as the 13th head football coach at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. "I am very excited to come here to ULM. I know that we have the opportunity to be successful and get this program turned around," Weatherbie said. "Once you've been successful, it's easier to get back there. It's like driving a car, once you've been there, it's easier to get back. ULM has been there. We can win in the Sun Belt Conference and go to the New Orleans Bowl, that is our goal. It's about changing an attitude, getting everyone on board and behind this football program, it's going to

take a total team effort. It takes the whole city of Monroe, the entire community to bring back the pride in this great program, but I know that it is something that we can get done with the help of everyone."

"The selection of Charlie Weatherbie as ULM's head football coach should signal everyone that we are serious about having a successful program," ULM President Cofer said. "Charlie is a leader and a winner. He will guide our student athletes to success on the field and in the classroom. I want to thank the committee and all of our boosters for their constant and strong support of ULM athletics."

Check out Weatherbie's
biography at
www.ulmathletics.com

Mark Your Calendars! 2003 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
08/30	LSU	Baton Rouge, LA	TBA
09/06	Stephen F. Austin	Monroe, LA	7 p.m.
09/13	Mississippi	Oxford, MS	TBA
09/20	Northwestern St.	Monroe, LA	6 p.m.
09/27	Utah St.	Logan, UT	7 p.m.
10/04	Arkansas St.	Little Rock, AR	6 p.m.
10/11	Louisiana-Lafayette	Lafayette, LA	4 p.m.
10/25	New Mexico St.	Monroe, LA	7 p.m.
11/01	Auburn	Auburn, AL	TBA
11/08	North Texas	Monroe, LA	4 p.m.
11/15	Idaho	Monroe, LA	7 p.m.
11/22	Troy St.	Troy, AL	TBA



For ticket
information call
(318) 342-3ULM
or check out
the website at
www.ulmathletics.com

Message from the President

(Continued from page 1)

affecting the institution. We will use these analyses to help us develop a set of strategic objectives for the next three to five years.

From the classroom to the playing fields to the dance floor, our students have excelled. Earlier this semester, 175 of our students and their faculty mentors participated in the Student Research Symposium, the largest number of participants ever. We created the Emerging Scholars program in which 30 freshmen jointly conducted research projects with a faculty mentor. We intend to expand that program to 100 freshmen next fall. ULM students planned and executed the first ever Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, and the first Mardi Gras Ball. Our athletes won another national championship in water skiing, and another conference championship in baseball. We even have a power lifting team and the Flying Tomahawks, our student aviation group, participated in national competitions this year.

The response of our business community, the Louisiana legislative delegation, the Governor's Office, and the entire Congressional delegation has been nothing less than spectacular. We could not have made the progress we did without the unwavering support of all of the individuals in these groups. In addition, even though we got a late start the generosity of our donors has helped move this institution forward.

Much has been accomplished this year, but much is left to do. The University of Louisiana at Monroe has been designated the health science campus for the University of Louisiana System. We currently have eight health science programs here, five more than any other of the system schools. Because of their accreditation requirements of low student/faculty ratio and their clinical component, these programs are inherently more expensive to conduct than other academic programs. Therefore, we need a larger number of students studying across a broad spectrum of disciplines to support the health science programs. This means all of us must continue to vigorously

recruit students to ULM. And, we cannot do the recruiting alone. We need every student, parent, alumnus, faculty member, high school counselor, teacher and area business person to help us recruit students to your University. Why, because it is good business. It is becoming increasingly evident that ULM is the economic engine of northeast Louisiana, not only by what we contribute to the economy, but what we contribute to the intellectual capital of the region.

"ULM is the economic engine of northeast Louisiana, not only by what we contribute to the economy, but what we contribute to the intellectual capital of the region."

For every student we lose to another institution, our schools will lose a qualified teacher; our hospitals will lose a nurse, a radiological technologist, a clinician lab scientist, or an occupational therapist; and our dentists will lose a dental hygienist. For every student that we lose to another institution, the region will lose a computer programmer, an accountant, a banker, and the list goes on and on. In the end, for every student we lose to another

institution, the region loses a well trained, motivated, tax-paying citizen. The research is clear, the higher the level of education in a region the greater the economic wealth in the region. For the economic viability of northeast Louisiana, the University of Louisiana at Monroe must remain strong.

I was asked recently how I would characterize the first year. My response was, "Last year was a good year for ULM, and next year will be even better."

Dr. James E. Cofer, President

On April 29, 2003, Dr. Cofer delivered the State of the University address, in which he detailed the many accomplishments of the dedicated group of ULM faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community volunteers. Dr. Cofer also discussed the key issues and objectives for ULM in the coming year. You can read the entire State of the University address on the president's web page at www.ulm.edu/president/

**The
Groundbreaker
is published by
the ULM School
of Construction
for its alumni,
students, and
friends.**

**It is funded by
the Potts Fund.**

**Editor
Vanessa Prevost**

ALUMNI CRAWFISH BOILS

This semester, the School of Construction and the ULM Alumni Association organized and attended many crawfish boils in and out of state. On April 27, we met with the Dallas, TX, Alumni Chapter; on May 3, we met with the Jackson, MS, Alumni Chapter; on May 10, we met with the Shreveport, LA, Alumni Chapter; and on May 31, we met with the Baton Rouge, LA, Alumni Chapter. Keep in touch with your fellow classmates and alumni! Call Dr. Parker or check out the ULM Alumni web site to find out information about the Alumni Chapter closest to you, or if you want to help revive the Alumni Chapter in your area.

Check out
the complete
"Alumni Event
Album"
at
[www.ulm.edu/
alumni](http://www.ulm.edu/alumni)



It's time to renew your membership!

The ULM Alumni Association serves to foster a spirit of loyalty and fraternalism among graduates, former students, students and friends of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and to achieve unity of purpose and action in promoting the best interests of the University. Membership allows you to network with over 47,000 graduates and former students, including over 1,200 construction graduates; to vote and get involved with the Alumni Association Board of Directors; and to enjoy ULM Alumni publications, and special hotels and car rental rates.

Individual Membership is \$25; Couple Membership is \$35; and Life Membership is \$500. The membership period runs from July 1 through June 30. Dues paid by December 31 are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information contact the ULM Alumni Relations Office at (318) 342-5420 or (800) 261-0174.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Keep in touch! It's great to hear from you! Fill out and return the form on page 12 to have your news published in the next issue or e-mail your news to kparker@ulm.edu

Fuller, Karl M., '93
Construction Manager, JPI,
Irving, TX.

Jones, Andy, '89
Vice President, VCC-
Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.

Luke, Connelly, '00
Project Manager/Estimator,
W.G. Yates & Sons Division
8, Jackson, MS.

McDaniel, Mark H., '77
Senior Project Manager,
Roy Anderson Corp,
Gulfport, MS.

"I just completed my 11th year with Roy Anderson Corp. Previously, I have overseen the construction of various casinos, hotels, condos, banks, schools, hospitals and military projects. I am currently involved with the organization of the staffing for the upcoming construction transformation of Louisiana Downs to a Harrahs Casino/Hotel as well as managing the construction of the Consolidated Library/Education Center at Ft Polk, La, the new BEQ Headquarters Facility for the Gulfport Seabee Base, the new Mobilization Containment Warehouse for the Navy at Gulfport, new Casino addition at the Biloxi Palace Casino, the new Peoples Bank Long Beach Headquarters, and a new manufacturing facility for Lockheed Martin (390,000 sf). Additionally, I am GM of our Small Projects Division as well as chairing our Business Development

Team. My education knowledge gained from the University of Louisiana at Monroe prepared me for the ever changing construction challenges that we all encounter from day to day and project to project. I wish the ULM staff continued success in producing competent construction experts.

Peaker, Kenneth W, '87
Senior Project Manager,
S.M. Wilson, Lenexa, KS.
Ken W. Peaker recently joined S.M. Wilson, a Lenexa-based general contracting firm, as senior project manager. Peaker has 20 years of construction experience with healthcare facilities, manufacturing plants and retail shopping centers. He has focused extensively on healthcare facilities during the past 15 years. Peaker came to S.M. Wilson from the Kansas City-based Murray Company where he served as project manager. He earned a B.S. in Construction from ULM (NLU) in 1987. He is currently managing S.M. Wilson's two Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market projects. Prior to joining S.M. Wilson, Peaker worked as a pipeline inspector offshore in the Gulf of Mexico in 1979 and served as a superintendent for various residential and marine construction projects while in college. Following graduation, he was a project superintendent at McDevitt and Street in Charlotte, N.C.,

and in 1991 joined FJW in Arlington, TX, as a superintendent/project manager working with the Humana and Columbia/HCA hospital groups. Peaker has been involved in the development, preconstruction and construction management of many projects in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, North Carolina, Kentucky, Louisiana and Florida. In Kansas and Missouri, Peaker has managed the construction of multiple dialysis clinics for the Gambro and Fersenius Medical Care companies; rehabilitation clinics for Health South; and numerous additions and renovations for Overland Park Regional Medical Center. He also has managed construction for Lake Regional Health Systems in Osage Beach Mo., Newman Regional Health in Emporia, Kan., and affiliated clinics. *Founded in 1921, the St. Louis-based S.M. Wilson & Co. is a full service construction management and general contracting firm. It offers a full range of services, including construction management and design/build for clients in retail, health care, education, commercial and industrial services. The Kansas City-area location is the first full-service office that S.M. Wilson has opened outside the St. Louis market. S.M. Wilson projects to reach \$250 million in annual revenues in 2003. The firm was ranked 227th in Engineering News-Record's 2001 list of Top 400 commercial contractors nationwide. Shopping Center World lists the firm 14th among the largest builders of "Big*

Box" retail space in the United States.

Tinney, Meredith Z., '94
Project Manager, Beck,
Sherman, TX.

"Currently building a Cinemark 12-screen movie theatre in Sherman, TX. About to start renovating and adding on to the Cinemark in College Station. Lots of fun!"

Werling, Kurt J., '95
Project Manager, Carl E.
Woodward, LLC, New
Orleans, LA.

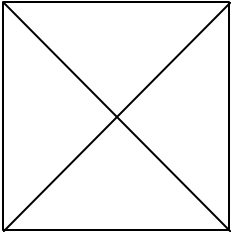
"I am currently the project manager on a 17-story hotel in downtown New Orleans and the project manager of two historic buildings in the French Quarter converting them into apartments. I am living in New Orleans with my wife Renee and one child, Kurt Joshua, 10 months old."

Young, Victor, '96
Project Manager, Hanover Co.,
Houston, TX.

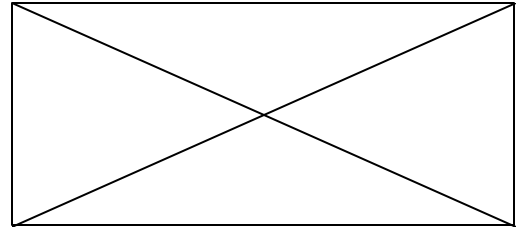
"I am working as a Project Manager for Hanover in Houston. We are building mostly high-rise, mid-rise, and 4-story inner city loft apartment products these days. We also have a limited amount of garden style properties under construction. Our Executive VP and Partner, Jeff Creel, graduated from ULM (NLU) in 1973."

MEMORIAL

Anderson, Kirk Edward,
School of Construction
student, passed away at his
home on January 3, 2003.



University of Louisiana at Monroe
 School of Construction
 700 University Avenue
 Monroe, LA 71209-9222



The University of Louisiana at Monroe is a member of the University of Louisiana System and an Affirmative Action/EOE.

ALUMNI NEWS, KEEP US INFORMED!

ALUMNI UPDATE:

Name: _____ Year Grad.: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Home Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Job Title: _____

Company/City/State: _____ Co. Phone #: _____

Yes, I am interested in becoming a member of the Industry Advisory Council.

Your news to be published in the newsletter:

Signed/Date _____

Return your news to **Editor Groundbreaker**, University of Louisiana at Monroe, School of Construction, Monroe, LA 71209-0540, or e-mail to: kparker@ulm.edu ; or fax to (318) 342-1861.